

COUNTRY: Germany (Soviet Zone)

SECURITY

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TOPIC: Military Information from Fuerstenberg

EVALUATION: see below

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DATE OF CONTENT: 15 October to 14 December 1951

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PREPARED

16 January 1952

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PAGES: 3 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)

REMARKS

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- Between 6 and 14 December 1951, relatively few Soviet officers or soldiers wearing red-bordered black and black-bordered red epaulets were seen entering or leaving the restricted area on the southern shore of Roeblin Lake at Fuerstenberg (N 54/11 62).

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- On 5 December, the restricted area west of the Fuerstenberg railroad station was occupied by about 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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- On 12 December, the outer portion of the former Ravensbrueck concentration camp was occupied by about 250 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets and 50 troops who wore black-bordered black epaulets. Two radio trucks were noticed there. Four 80-mm mortars were seen in the billeting area on 26 November.

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- On 12 December, the inner portion of the Ravensbrueck concentration camp was occupied by about 400 troops. Half the troops wore red-bordered black and the other half wore black-bordered red epaulets. Piles of boxes were seen in front of the low wooden barracks buildings.

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- On 13 December, the tank repair shop on the road to Bredoreiche was occupied by 150 to 200 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. One JS tank and 17 trucks were observed to be under repair.

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- The castle of Fuerstenberg did not appear to be used as permanent quarters on 10 December. A few officers, enlisted men and uniformed women, wearing red-bordered black, black-bordered red and black-bordered black epaulets were seen entering or leaving the castle.

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7. On 27 October, the SS Kaserne, Droege, 4 km south of Fuerstenberg, was occupied to capacity by troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets, including some with motor transport insignia. From 100 to 120 trucks were parked in the barracks yard. Small groups of about 20 soldiers each, who wore red-bordered black epaulets, practiced throwing hand grenades and received field training in the adjoining training field.

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8. On 15 November, source learned that some villas in the restricted area on the southern shore of Roebelin Lake had been derequisitioned and returned to their German owners. German craftsmen in the restricted area said that five or six generals were stationed there. (1)

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9. On 15 November, the outer and inner portions of the Ravensbrueck concentration camp were occupied to capacity by about 3,000 troops.

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10. On 15 November, the SS Kaserne, Droege, quartered about 4,000 troops who wore red-bordered black epaulets. Local residents stated that they had seen 40 to 60 tanks in the wooded area west of the barracks installation at the end of October. They also said that they had seen about 20 tanks leaving the billeting area toward the training field just east of the Droege railroad station between 10 and 12 November.

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11. The castle of Fuerstenberg was vacated by military personnel in early October. Local residents said that a civilian hospital would be established in the castle. (3)
12. On 15 October, Unit Davidenko, allegedly stationed in Fuerstenberg, received a shipment of 30,000 kg of potatoes from Templin. The personnel who hauled the potatoes away from the railroad station on trucks wore red-bordered black epaulets with tank insignia. (5)
13. On 12 November, the SS Kaserne, Droege, quartered a unit of soldiers who wore red-bordered black epaulets.

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Comments.

- (1) The observations made at the restricted area on Roebelin Lake, the restricted area west of the Fuerstenberg railroad station and the tank repair shop agree with previous information.
- (2) The information indicates that components of the 9th Sig Regt and supply services of the Second Gds Mecz Army were still stationed in the inner and outer portions of the former Ravensbrueck concentration camp.
- The strength estimate of 3,000 troops in paragraph 9 of the present report is substantially above previous estimates by other sources and therefore doubted.
- (3) at the beginning of September 1951 that the military hospital in the castle of Fuerstenberg moved out with all its equipment, and that the castle was returned to the Fuerstenberg municipal administration.
- (4) The information indicate that the SS Kaserne, Droege, still quartered the

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34th Gds Msz Rifle Regt of the 12th Gds Tank Div and headquarters troops, probably including motor transport units, of the Second Gds Mecz Army. See [redacted] The tanks mentioned in the present report probably belong to components of the 12th Gds Tank Div which practiced there only temporarily. No tanks have been reported to be stationed in the SS Kaserne to date. The strength estimate of 4,000 troops in paragraph 10 is considered too high.

(5)A Tank Unit Davidenko in Fuerstenberg is reported for the first time.

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